



HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HELD AT PARK HALL, LEYTON ROAD, HARPENDEN AL5 2LX
ON MONDAY, 16 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillors Farmer (Chair), Heritage (Vice Chair), Calle, Canfield, Cooley, Ellis, Gilham, James, Mrs Kent, Mrs Linacre, Martyn, Maynard, Pawle, Weaver, Williams

In Attendance: Carl Cheevers, Town Clerk
The Mayor of Hertford Cllr Mrs Susan Dunkley and Consort Mr Robert Dunkley
The Vice Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, Cllr William Wyatt-Lowe
Peter Oxley, Executive Director, Lawes Agricultural Trust
42 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Chichester-Miles

1 WELCOME BY HARPENDEN TOWN MAYOR, COUNCILLOR ROSEMARY FARMER

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES AND MINUTES

Apologies were received from Cllr Chichester-Miles.

3 PRESENTATION BY PETER OXLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAWES AGRICULTURAL TRUST

Mr Oxley gave a presentation on the history and work of Rothamsted Research and an introduction to upcoming projects and events.

The presentation stimulated various questions from the audience regarding the future plans.

The Town Mayor thanked Peter for his presentation and reflected that we were fortunate to have such a significant research institution in Harpenden.

4 PRESENTATION OF THE 2017/18 AWARDS OF MERIT IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE COMMUNITY OVER MANY YEARS

The Mayor congratulated the recipients of the Award of Merit. She was delighted that everyone was present to accept these as they had all made

invaluable contributions to the community which deserved to be acknowledged. The Award of Merit is the Town Council's way of recognising the achievements of individuals and showing how grateful we, as members of the community, are for their efforts on behalf of everyone in Harpenden.

5 PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY CHEQUES

The Mayor was delighted to announce that £6,432.74 had been raised for her nominated charities, Harpenden Connect (The Harpenden Hopper Bus) and Rennie Grove Hospice Care. She presented cheques for £3,216.37 each to the charities.

6 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2017/18

The Mayor presented the Town Council's Annual Report for 2017/8, the key points of which were as follows:

- Neighbourhood Plan – A draft had now been finalised and this was now going through Regulation 16 consultation before being Independently Examined.
- The Council continued to invest in its assets; this included the redevelopment of the play area at Marquis Lane (work due to be completed end May) and the construction of a new Nature Reserve Centre at Batford Springs Local Nature Reserve.
- The Council continued to support partners with key projects in the area including the redevelopment of the Red House Memorial Hospital site by the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust and the new leisure and cultural facilities development led by St Albans City and District Council.
- A programme of community events had been undertaken, with regular events such as the Farmers' Markets and Summer and Christmas Carnivals continuing as well as the Council supporting the introduction of new events such as Street Food Socials.
- The Council had also been looking at its internal processes and ways of modernising these; it was working towards halving paper consumption by 2020 and had introduced a new report and committee management system.

The following questions were then taken:

Q: Are there any plans for the Council to make Harpenden 'plastic free'?

A: Although a completely plastic free environment would not be possible, the Council is considering and would welcome ideas for reducing plastic use. We are currently looking at plans to install a water refill station in the High Street.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman

Date